

What is claimed is:

1. A Gram-negative bacterium comprising, an inducible regulatory sequence operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contained within the genome of said Gram-negative bacterium.
2. A Gram-negative bacterium comprising a recombinant nucleotide sequence containing an inducible regulatory sequence other than sacR operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase.
3. The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase is a sacB open reading frame.
4. The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein said bacterium is a member of the genus *Agrobacterium*
5. The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 3, wherein said bacterium is *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.
6. ~~The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon.~~
7. ~~The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the Pi 2(noc) promoter and the noc 1 operon.~~
8. ~~The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the P_{BAD} promoter and araC cis element.~~
9. A recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising an inducible regulatory sequence other than sacR, operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase.
10. ~~The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon.~~

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sub
A

sub
B

11.

The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the Pi2 (noc) promoter and the noc 1 operon.

12. The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the P_{BAD} promoter and the araC cis element.

13. The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said sequence encoding a levansucrase is a sacB open reading frame.

14. A method for transforming a plant cell comprising,

- a) obtaining an *Agrobacterium* whose genome contains an inducible regulatory sequence operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase;
- b) introducing a DNA construct into a T-DNA element of said *Agrobacterium*; and
- c) inoculating at least one plant cell with the *Agrobacterium* of (b) for a time sufficient for mobilization of the T-DNA element from the *Agrobacterium* to the plant genome.

15. A method for transforming a plant cell comprising,

- a) obtaining an *Agrobacterium* comprising a first recombinant nucleic acid construct containing an inducible regulatory sequence other than sacR, operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase;
- b) introducing a second DNA construct into a T-DNA element of said *Agrobacterium*; and
- c) inoculating at least one plant cell with the *Agrobacterium* of (b) for a time sufficient for mobilization of the T-DNA element from the *Agrobacterium* to the plant genome.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising counter selecting against said bacterium by introducing, in the presence of sucrose, a suitable inducer to cause the production of levansucrase by the bacterium resulting in the lysis of said bacterium.

17.

The method of claim 14, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon.

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18. The method of claim 14, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the pi 2(noc) promoter and noc 1 operon.
19. The method of claim 14, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the P_{BAD} promoter and the araC cis element.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein said sequence encoding a levansucrase is a sacB open reading frame.
21. A method for counter selecting against a Gram-negative bacterium whose genome contains an inducible regulatory sequence operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase comprising, introducing, in the presence of sucrose, a suitable inducer to cause the production the levansucrase by the bacterium resulting in the lysis of said bacterium.
22. A method for counter selecting against a Gram-negative bacterium containing a recombinant nucleic acid construct that includes an inducible regulatory sequence other than sacR, operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase comprising, introducing, in the presence of sucrose, a suitable inducer to cause the production of levansucrase by the bacterium resulting in the lysis of said bacterium.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein said bacterium is a member of the genus *Agrobacterium*
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said bacterium is an *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* bacterium.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the Pi 2(noc) promoter and noc 1 operon.

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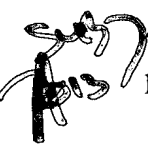
27. ~~The method of claim 21, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the P_{BAD} promoter and the araC cis element.~~
28. The method of claim 21, wherein said sequence encoding a levansucrase is a sacB open reading frame.
29. A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid construct containing an inducible regulatory sequence other than sacR, operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase.
30. ~~The vector of claim 29, wherein said regulatory sequence comprises the *E. coli* lactose operon.~~
31. ~~The vector of claim 29, wherein said regulatory sequences comprises the Pi 2(noc) promoter and noc 1 operon.~~
32. ~~The vector of claim 29, wherein said regulatory sequences comprises the P_{BAD} promoter and the araC cis element.~~
33. The vector of claim 29, wherein said sequences encoding a levansucrase is a sacB open reading frame.
34. ~~The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 1, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the traCDG promoter and the occ promoter.~~
35. The Gram-negative bacterium of claim 3, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.
36. ~~The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the traCDG promoter and the occ promoter.~~
37. The recombinant nucleic acid construct of claim 13, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.
38. ~~The method of claim 14, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the traCDG promoter and the occ promoter.~~

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39. The method of claim 20, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.

 40. ~~The method of claim 21, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the traCDG promoter and the occ promoter.~~

41. The method of claim 28, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.

 42. ~~The vector of claim 29, wherein the regulatory sequence comprises the traCDG promoter and the occ promoter.~~

43. The vector of claim 33, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding a levansucrase contains a second copy of a sacB open reading frame.

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